

15 a software portion configured to return a results list based on the ranked target
16 documents.

1 
2 21. (Amended) A computer program product, comprising:
3 a computer usable medium having computer readable instructions stored
4 therein to search a large number of hypertext documents in accordance with
a current search query, including:
5 computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to determine
6 which of the hypertext documents are expert documents;
7 computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to rank the
8 expert documents in accordance with the current search query by:
9 determining a level score for each of the expert documents;
10 determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the
11 expert documents; and
12 determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance
13 with the level score of the expert document and the fullness
14 factors for the key phrases of the expert document;
15 computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to rank target
16 documents pointed to by the ranked expert documents; and
17 computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to return a
18 results list based on the ranked target documents.

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 and 19-21, and objected to claims 13-18 as depending from a rejected independent claim. Claims 1, 20 and 21 are amended. Claim 13 is hereby cancelled without prejudice.

Corrected formal drawings are being submitted on this date to overcome the informalities noted by the Draftsperson. A courtesy copy is enclosed with this Paper for the Examiner's convenience. No new matter has been added.

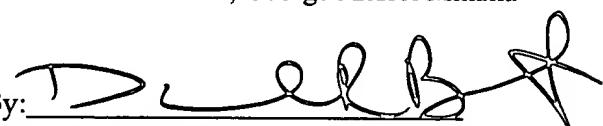
The detailed description is amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner objected to claims 13-18 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in dependent form. Accordingly, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 13, and is therefore allowable. In addition to reciting their own patentable features, claims 2-12 and 14-19 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 as amended, and are therefore also allowable. Independent claims 20 and 21 are amended to be similar in scope to claim 1 as amended, and are therefore also patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

In light of these Remarks, the Examiner is asked to issue a Notice of Allowance allowing all claims now pending, claims 1-12 and 14-21. If any issues remain outstanding prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney so that they may be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
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1 Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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3 IN THE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

4 Paragraph beginning at line 14 of page 6:

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6 The methods described herein are preferably implemented as
7 software instructions stored in memory 104 and executed by processor 102.
8 These instructions can also be stored on computer readable medium 140,
9 such as disk drive, memory, CD ROM, etc. System 100 also includes an
10 input device 120, such as a keyboard or a mouse, and an output display
11 device 130, such as a display screen.

12 Paragraph beginning at line 19 of page 6:

13

14 In other preferred embodiments, search engine 112 and [datalists]
15 data/lists 114 reside on different computers or in different memories. The search
16 engine can also be included in a client/server model in which the search engine
17 acts as a server, sending results lists to requesting clients in response to queries.

18 IN THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Amended) A computer-implemented method for searching a large number
2 of hypertext documents in accordance with a current search query, comprising:
3 determining which of the hypertext documents are expert documents;
4 ranking the expert documents in accordance with the current search query by:
5 determining a level score for each of the expert documents;

6 determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the
7 expert documents; and
8 determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance
9 with the level score of the expert document and the fullness
10 factors for the key phrases of the expert document;
11 ranking target documents pointed to by the ranked expert documents; and
12 returning a results list based on the ranked target documents.

1 20. (Amended) An apparatus that searches a large number of hypertext
2 documents in accordance with a current search query, comprising:
3 a software portion configured to determine which of the hypertext documents
4 are expert documents;
5 a software portion configured to rank the expert documents in accordance with
6 the current search query by:
7 determining a level score for each of the expert documents;
8 determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the
9 expert documents; and
10 determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance
11 with the level score of the expert document and the fullness
12 factors for the key phrases of the expert document;
13 a software portion configured to rank target documents pointed to by the ranked
14 expert documents; and
15 a software portion configured to return a results list based on the ranked target
16 documents.

21. (Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable instructions stored therein to search a large number of hypertext documents in accordance with a current search query, including:

computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to determine which of the hypertext documents are expert documents;

computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to rank the expert documents in accordance with the current search query by:

determining a level score for each of the expert documents;

determining a fullness factor for each key phrase on each of the expert documents; and

determining an expert score for each expert document in accordance with the level score of the expert document and the fullness factors for the key phrases of the expert document;

computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to rank target documents pointed to by the ranked expert documents; and

computer readable program code devices for causing a computer to return a results list based on the ranked target documents.

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